

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 AID-05

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R 241551Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1355

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR VE

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL: SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

PERIOD: JULY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 1975 COUNTRY: VENEZUELA

REF: A. STATE 139804 B. STATE 286666 C. STATE 290355

1. OVERVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

1. THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT HAS ADVISED US ORALLY OF THEIR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED PERSONNEL TO THE CARACAS DEA REGIONAL OFFICE. FORMAL APPROVAL IS EXPECTED SHORTLY. THIS MATTER HAD BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND WAS AN ISSUE BETWEEN THE TECHNICAL JUDICIAL POLICE (PTJ) AND GOV MINISTRIES.

2. THE TECHNICAL JUDICIAL POLICE ASSIGNED A NARCOTICS OFFICER TO THE CARACAS DEA REGIONAL OFFICE FOR LIAISON PURPOSES.

3. A NEW DIRECTOR WAS NAMED BY THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT TO HEAD THE CCUID.

4. A FINAL DRAFT OF A BILATERAL NARCOTICS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WAS PRESENTED TO THE EMBASSY BY THE INTERMINISTERIAL

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COMMISSION ON DRUG ABUSE (CCUID).

5. VENEZUELA RATIFIED THE SOUTH AMERICAN TREATY ON PSYCHOTROPICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS.

6. THE VENEZUELAN CUSTOMS SERVICE HAS DRAFTED NEW LEGISLATION THAT INCLUDES SPECIFIC ARTICLES ON NARCOTICS.

7. AN "INTEGRATED AGENCY WORKING GROUP" WITH REPRESENTATION FROM THE PTJ, CUSTOMS, NATIONAL GUARD, THE CCUID, AND THE METROPOLITAN POLICE OF CARACAS HAS BEEN FORMED AT THE EMBASSY'S INSTIGATION. THIS GROUP HAS HAD TWO MEETINGS TO DISCUSS FORMULATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO DEVELOP GOV NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CAPABILITY.

(A) PROGRESS OF CCINC FUNDED MATTERS.

NOTE: WE HAVE NO ON-GOING PROJECTS IN VENEZUELA WHICH ARE FINANCED WITH SECTION 482 FUNDS. WE DO, HOWEVER, PROVIDE TRAINING AND DAY-TO-DAY ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO SEVERAL VENEZUELAN INSTITUTIONS THROUGH THE AID LA REGION NARCOTICS ADVISOR, DEA, AND THE EMBASSY'S NARCOTICS COORDINATOR.

(Q) TECHNICAL JUDICIAL POLICE (PTU), MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

THROUGH TRAINING AND DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS WE HAVE BEEN INFLUENTIAL IN CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PTJ NARCOTICS UNIT. IT HAS UNDERGONE AN ALMOST COMPLETE CHANGE IN PERSONNEL INCLUDING ITS CHIEF. MOST OF THE PERSONNEL NOW ASSIGNED ATTENDED THE IN-COUNTRY CCINC FUNDED TRAINING PROGRAM IN JULY 1975. THE UNIT IS NOW OPERATING BELOW ITS AUTHORIZED STRENGTH BUT ENJOYS A VERY HIGH REPUTATION IN INTEGRITY AND EFFECTIVENESS.

ALSO AT A RECENT "INTEGRATED AGENCY WORKING GROUP" MEETING AT WHICH THE SUB-DIRECTOR OF THE PTJ PRESIDED, A GENERAL COMMITMENT WAS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE CUSTOMS SERVICE, THE NATIONAL GUARD, AND THE METROPOLITAN POLICE TO FORM A JOINT COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND A JOINT TRAINING TEAM WHICH WOULD ATTEMPT TO SATISFY THE NEEDS OF ALL THE AGENCIES IN THE NARCOTICS EFFORT, ESPECIALLY IN UNIFORM TRAINING PROGRAMS. THIS CONCEPT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY ALL CONCERNED AND IS BEING DEVELOPED FURTHER.

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RECENTLY, THE PTJ ASSIGNED ONE OF THEIR NARCOTICS OFFICERS TO THE CARACAS DEA REGIONAL OFFICE FOR LIAISON PURPOSES.

(2) INTERMINISTERIAL COMMISSION ON DRUG ABUSE (CCUID), PRESIDENCY.

PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ HAS NAMED A NEW DIRECTOR TO THE CCUID. UNTIL RECENTLY THE CCUID HAD BEEN INACTIVE AND WAS

UNDERGOING REORGANIZATION. THE NEW DIRECTOR, TOGETHER WITH NEW REPRESENTATION FROM ALL GOV MINISTRIES, HAS PLEDGED TO REVITALIZE AND GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO THE CCUID. IT HAS UNDERTAKEN THE TASK OF CONDUCTING A STUDY TO DEFINE THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN VENEZUELA, AND WE ARE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE. CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS IN THIS AREA WILL PROBABLY NOT BE OBTAINED UNTIL THE SECOND HALF OF FY 1976. THE CCUID HAS ALSO GIVEN US A FINAL DRAFT OF A BILATERAL NARCOTICS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH IS BASED ON THE 1972 ARGENTINE - U.S. AGREEMENT. THIS HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR CONSIDERATION.

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(2) VENEZUELAN CUSTOMS SERVICE, MINISTRY OF FINANCE

THE VENEZUELAN CUSTOMS SERVICE HAS DRAFTED NEW LEGISLATION WHICH INCLUDES ARTICLES PROVIDING SPECIFIC DETAILS RELATED TO NARCOTICS MATTERS. EXISTING CUSTOMS LEGISLATION DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING.

SEVERAL NEW PROCEDURES INITIATED RECENTLY AT MAIQUETIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BY RETURNING USG SPONSORED TRAINEES (SUCH AS ISOLATION OF PUBLIC FROM INCOMING PASSENGERS; SEARCH METHODS, ETC.) HAVE HAD VERY POSITIVE RESULTS. DRUG SEIZURES HAVE NOT BEEN SIGNIFICANT BUT MANY SIDE BENEFITS HAVE RESULTED AND A MORE EFFICIENT OPERATION IS EMERGING.

(4) FUERZAS ARMADAS DE COOPERACION (NATIONAL GUARD), MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

THE NATIONAL GUARD HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR BORDER CONTROL, AIRPORT, SEAPORT SECURITY AND COAST PATROL. IT HAS TAKEN A KEEN INTEREST IN NARCOTICS MATTERS, AND HAS BEEN REPRESENTED AT RECENT "INTEGRATED AGENCY WORKING GROUP" MEETINGS BY SENIOR OFFICERS. GENERAL ENERIO GONZALEZ MEDICCI HAS BEEN INFLUENTIAL IN THE FORMATION OF THE "WORKING GROUP" AND IN PROMOTING THE CONCEPT OF A UNIFORM NARCOTICS EFFORT.
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THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THIS GROUP EXTEND FAR BEYOND THE FACE VALUE OF OUR EFFORTS. THE NATIONAL GUARD IS EXPECTED TO BECOME THE VENEZUELAN NATIONAL POLICE, ABSORBING OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, SOMETIME IN 1976 IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROPOSED LEGISLATION BEFORE THE NATIONAL CONGRESS.

(5) CARACAS METROPOLITAN POLICE, FEDERAL DISTRICT AND MIRANDA METROPOLITAN AREA.

GENERAL HERNAN DELGADO SANCHEZ, UNTIL RECENTLY COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE, (HE HAS JUST BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC) HAS ATTENDED THE RECENT "WORKING GROUP" MEETINGS AND HAS SHOWN A KEEN INTEREST IN THE JOINT COORDINATED TRAINING EFFORT. HE HAS ASSIGNED HIS CHIEF OF THE VICE SQUAD (INCLUDES NARCOTICS) TO THE WORKING GROUP.

B. STATUS OF AGREEMENTS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

THERE WERE NO ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS MADE WITH THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT UNDER THE NARCOTICS APPROPRIATION OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.

C. TOTAL OBLIGATIONS AND EXPENDITURES DURING REPORTING PERIOD

THE FOLLOWING FIGURES REFLECT PERSONNEL COSTS FOR ONE U.S. EMPLOYEE WITH REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ONE LOCAL HIRE SECRETARY. ALSO, ALL TRAINING EXPENDITURES WERE CENTRALLY FUNDED.

OBLIGATIONS WERE \$26,000 EXCLUDING CENTRALLY FUNDED PAYROLL AND TRAINING COSTS.

OBLIGATIONS	EXPENDITURES
U.S. PERSONNEL (SALARY, ALLOWANCES)	\$16,400
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL	3,500
TRAINING (CENTRALLY FUNDED, EST.)	42,500

LOCAL HIRE SECRETARY	6,300
SUPPORT COSTS	1,000
TOTAL	\$69,700

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D. TYPES, QUANTITY & COST OF EQUIPMENT DELIVERED DURING
REPORTING PERIOD

THERE WERE NO OBLIGATIONS OR PROVISIONS OF EQUIPMENT TO THE GOV.

3. TYPES, QUANTITY & COST OF EQUIPMENT IN PIPELINE

THERE IS NO EQUIPMENT FOR THE GOV IN PIPELINE.

F. OTHER SUPPORT COSTS NOT DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO SPECIFIC
AGREEMENTS.

NONE.

G. NUMBER & TYPE OF PEOPLE TRAINED

1. THIRTY PTJ OFFICERS WERE PROVIDED EIGHTY (80) HOURS OF
INSTRUCTION IN NARCOTICS IDENTIFICATION AND INTERDICTION
IN-COUNTRY BY A DEA TRAINING TEAM.

2. THIRTY PTJ OFFICERS RECEIVED FORTY (40) HOURS OF INSTRUCTION
AT THE SUPERVISORY LEVEL IN NARCOTICS INVESTIGATION GIVEN IN
COUNTRY BY A DEA TRAINING TEAM.

3. THREE PTJ OFFICERS ATTENDED A SIX WEEK COURSE IN THE U.S.
IN NARCOTICS INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY DEA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DRUG CONTROL, SEMIANNUAL REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA13391
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750447-0359
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751212/aaaaakka.tel
Line Count: 260
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 139804, 76 STATE 286666, 76 STATE 290355
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 SEP 2003 by RowellE0>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL: SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT PERIOD: JULY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 1975 COUNTRY: VENEZUELA
TAGS: SNAR, VE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006